

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 7 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the recited subject matter.

Please amend Claims 4, 14 and 18 and add new Claims 21 and 22 as follows:

1 - 3 (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

discrimination means for discriminating, by using any one of a plurality of different discrimination processes including a digital watermark detection process, whether or not image data is a specific image;

selection means for selecting at least one of the plurality of different discrimination processes based on an operation by a ~~user~~ supervisor who inputs a password, ~~in a case where a user inputs the password;~~

setting means for setting an order of the plurality of different discrimination processes selected by the selection means when the selection means selects more than one of the plurality of different discrimination processes based on the operation by the supervisor; and

control means for causing said discrimination means to discriminate using, in the set order, one or more of the discrimination processes selected by said selection means and controlling a process of the image data in accordance with a discrimination result of said discrimination means.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said discrimination means executes at least a discrimination process for discriminating similarity between a feature obtained from the image data, and a feature of a specific image which is set in advance.

6. - 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein when it is determined in at least one of the plurality of different discrimination processes that an input image is a specific image, said discrimination means aborts other discrimination processes.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein only when it is determined in a first discrimination process of the plurality of different discrimination processes that an input image is a specific image, said discrimination means executes a second discrimination process.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein when image data inputted by input means is a specific image, said control means executes one of control for inhibiting the image data from being stored in storage means, control for modifying the image data and storing the modified image data in the storage means, control for erasing the image data temporarily stored in the storage means, and control for

modifying the image data temporarily stored in the storage means and re-storing the modified image data in the storage means.

11 - 13 (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:
a discrimination step of discriminating, by using any one of a plurality of different discrimination processes including a digital watermark detection process, whether or not image data is a specific image;

a ~~selecting~~ selection step of selecting at least one of the plurality of different discrimination processes based on an operation by a ~~user~~ supervisor who inputs a password, ~~in a case where a user inputs the password;~~

a setting step of setting an order of the selected discrimination processes based on the operation by the supervisor when more than one of the plurality of different discrimination processes are selected in said selection step; and

a control step of causing said discrimination step to discriminate using one or more the selected discrimination processes ~~selected in said selecting step in the set order~~ and controlling a process of the image data in accordance with a discrimination result of the discrimination step.

15 - 17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A computer readable memory that stores an image processing program which can process a specific image,

said image processing program including:

a program code of a discrimination step of discriminating, by using any one of a plurality of different discrimination processes including a digital watermark detection process, whether or not image data is a specific image;

a program code of a ~~selecting~~ selection step ~~for~~ of selecting at least one of the plurality of different discrimination processes based on an operation by a ~~user~~ supervisor who inputs a password, ~~in a case where a user inputs the password;~~

a program code of a setting step of setting an order of the selected discrimination processes based on the operation by the supervisor when more than one of the plurality of different discrimination processes are selected in said selection step; and

a program code of a control step of causing said discrimination step to discriminate using one or more the selected discrimination processes ~~selected in said selecting step~~ in the set order and controlling a process of the image data in accordance with a discrimination result of ~~the~~ said discrimination step.

19 - 20 (Cancelled)

21. (New) An image processing apparatus comprising:

discrimination means for discriminating, by using any one of a plurality of different discrimination processes including a digital watermark detection process, whether or not image data is a specific image;

selection means for selecting at least one of the plurality of different discrimination processes based on an operation by a supervisor who inputs a password; and

control means for causing said discrimination means to discriminate using the discrimination process selected by said selection means and controlling a process of the image data in accordance with a discrimination result of said discrimination means.

22. (New) An image processing method comprising:

a discrimination step of discriminating, by using any one of a plurality of different discrimination processes including a digital watermark detection process, whether or not image data is a specific image;

a selection step of selecting at least one of the plurality of different discrimination processes based on an operation by a supervisor who inputs a password; and

a control step of causing said discrimination step to discriminate using the discrimination process selected in said selection step and controlling a process of the image data in accordance with a discrimination result of said discrimination step.